



Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM): Promptly recognize and rapidly report

Vital Signs – July 2019

- Can you quickly recognize symptoms of acute flaccid myelitis?
- AFM is a rare but serious syndrome that causes sudden arm or leg weakness, mostly in children.
- Symptoms include sudden arm or leg weakness and loss of muscle tone and reflexes.
- Some people may also have difficulty moving the eyes or drooping eyelids, facial droop or weakness, or difficulty swallowing or slurred speech.
- Most patients developed AFM in late summer or early fall...
- And had respiratory symptoms or fever consistent with a viral infection less than a week before onset of limb weakness.
- AFM can progress quickly—patients may require respiratory support and need to be hospitalized.
- Promptly recognizing AFM symptoms and hospitalizing patients are critical to provide the best care.
- What can parents, doctors, and health departments do?
- Find answers at [www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns)